

The Emigrants (film)

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The Emigrants (Swedish: *Utvandrarna*) is a 1971 film directed by Jan Troell. It tells the story of a Swedish group who emigrate from Småland, Sweden to Minnesota, United States in the 19th century. The film follows the hardship of the group in Sweden and on the trip.

The movie is based on the first two novels of the *The Emigrants suite* by Vilhelm Moberg: *The Emigrants* and *Unto a Good Land*. It was adapted to the screen by Bengt Forslund and Jan Troell. The Emigrants stars Max von Sydow and Liv Ullmann in the lead, along with Eddie Axberg, Sven-Olof Bern, Aina Alfredsson, Allan Edwall, Monica Zetterlund and Pierre Lindstedt. *The Emigrants* was followed by a 1972 sequel, *The New Land* (*Nybyggarna*), with the same cast.

Americans in general and those of Scandinavian extraction especially will find these films helpful in understanding their own past. The film itself is a family's odyssey from rural poverty in Sweden to a new life in Minnesota, without the gloss one expects from films intended for American audiences, yet sympathetic to the people whose deepest desire was the material security which land plus their hard work and sacrifice might obtain. The film's depictions of the settlers' interactions with native Americans takes no sides, showing both the atrocities committed against the settlers in the Dakota wars as well as the hardships visited on the Indians culminating in the mass hanging of many Dakotas by Abraham Lincoln's government.

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Utvandrarna



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Directed by | Jan Troell |
| Produced by | Bengt Forslund |
| Written by | Bengt Forslund Jan Troell |
| Starring | Max von Sydow, Liv Ullmann, Eddie Axberg, Monica Zetterlund |
| Distributed by | Svensk Filmindustri Warner Bros. (U.S.) |
| Release date(s) | March 8, 1971 (Sweden) September 24, 1972 (U.S) |
| Running time | 191 min. |
| Country | Sweden |
| Language | Swedish |
| Budget | \$1,600,000 |

Cast

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Followed by | <i>The New Land</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------|

- Max von Sydow as Karl Oskar Nilsson
- Liv Ullmann as Kristina Nilsson
- Eddie Axberg as Robert Nilsson
- Pierre Lindstedt as Arvid
- Allan Edwall as Danjel
- Monica Zetterlund as Ulrika
- Hans Alfredson as Jonas Petter
- Aina Alfredsson as Märta
- Sven-Olof Bern as Nils
- Gustaf Färingborg as Brusander, The Vicar
- Åke Fridell as Aron
- Bruno Sörwing as Lönnegren
- Arnold Alfredsson as Verger
- Ulla Smidje as Inga-Lena, Danjel's wife
- Eva-Lena Zetterlund as Elin, Ulrika's daughter
- Bror Englund as Måns Jakob
- Agneta Prytz as Fina Kajsa
- Halvar Björk as Anders Månsson

Reception

Richard Schickel wrote in *Life* that "Jan Troell has made *the* masterpiece about the dream that shaped America - a dream, and an America, fast disappearing from our views."^[1] Vincent Canby of *The New York Times* hailed the acting performances, especially from Sydow and Ullmann, which he found to hold "a kind of spontaneous truth, in look and gesture, that does a lot to relieve the otherwise programmed nobility, truth and beauty." One complaint was raised by Canby: "As he showed in *Here's Your Life*, Mr. Troell, who is a fine cameraman, simply cannot resist the extra shot of sunlight-reflected-in-water that becomes just one too many, a thing of movie decoration."^[2]

Awards and honours

The Emigrants was nominated for five Academy Awards:

- Best Foreign Language Film
- Best Picture
- Best Director (Jan Troell)
- Best Actress in a Leading Role (Liv Ullmann)
- Best Writing, Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium

At the 30th Golden Globe Awards it won the awards for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Actress (Liv Ullmann). In Sweden it won the Guldbagge Awards for Best Film and Best Actor (Eddie Axberg).

See also

- Swedish emigration to the United States
- Lindstrom, Minnesota
- the sequel *The New Land*
- Vilhelm Moberg

References

- ↑ Schickel, Richard (1972). "When America was a dream" (http://books.google.com/books?id=yFYEAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA28#v=onepage&q=&f=false) . *Life* (October 13): 28.
http://books.google.com/books?id=yFYEAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA28#v=onepage&q=&f=false. Retrieved 2010-01-21.
- ↑ Canby, Vincent (1972-09-25). "' The Emigrants,' a Swedish Film Epic, Lands Here" (http://movies.nytimes.com/movie/review?res=9A00EFD6133FE73ABC4D51DFBF668389669EDE) ". *The New York Times*. Retrieved 2010-01-21.

External links

- The Emigrants* (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0067919/) at the Internet Movie Database

| Awards and achievements | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Preceded by <i>The Policeman</i> | Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film 1973 | Succeeded by <i>The Pedestrian</i> |

The Emigrants by Vilhelm Moberg

Novels: *The Emigrants* | *Unto a Good Land* | *The Settlers* | *The Last Letter Home*

Films: *The Emigrants* | *The New Land* **Musical:** *Kristina från Duvemåla*

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